

Applic. No. 10/799,098

Amdt. dated September 17, 2007

Reply to Office action of July 16, 2007

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Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for guiding sheets to a
sheet processing machine, which comprises the step of:

generating an overlapping stream of sheets guided over a table
in a sheet transport direction;

reducing an adhesion force between two sheets following one
another in the overlapping stream by lifting a sheet trailing
edge of a first sheet with a blown air jet aimed in the sheet
transport direction blown out substantially tangentially over
the first sheet.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to claim
1, which further comprises lifting the sheet trailing edge of
the first sheet by blowing under from behind the sheet.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, which
further comprises aligning the first sheet in a sheet

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transport direction before the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet is lifted.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 3, which further comprises aligning the first sheet laterally at a same time as the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet is lifted.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 3, which further comprises aligning the first sheet laterally after the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet has been lifted.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An apparatus for guiding sheets to a sheet processing machine, the apparatus comprising:

a lifting device for reducing an adhesion force between two sheets following one another in an overlapping stream by lifting a sheet trailing edge of a first sheet, said lifting device disposed above the first sheet of the overlapping stream, said lifting device being an air jet aimed in a sheet transport direction substantially tangentially over the first sheet of the overlapping stream.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a front edge alignment device, said lifting

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device being disposed at a distance of a sheet length to be processed from said front edge alignment device.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said lifting device can be adjusted in a sheet transport direction to a sheet format to be processed.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said lifting device has at least one nozzle.

Claims 10 and 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim [[11]] 6, wherein said nozzle is formed as a blowing/suction nozzle and can be acted on with blown air.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said nozzle is formed as a suction gripper and can be acted on with a vacuum.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said lifting device has a free jet nozzle in addition to said nozzle, said free jet nozzle being aimed at the overlapping sheet stream obliquely from above in a sheet transport direction.

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Claim 15 (original): The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said nozzle and said free jet nozzle can be activated at a cycle rate of the sheet processing machine.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A printing press, comprising:

a sheet stack feeder;

a first lifting apparatus for forming an overlapping stream and disposed adjacent said sheet stack feeder; and

a second lifting apparatus disposed above a first sheet of the overlapping stream, said second lifting apparatus being an air jet aimed in a sheet transport direction substantially tangentially over the first sheet of the overlapping stream.